London Amateur Radio & Computer Show is Moving

Thanks to the continuing efforts of the organisers, the London Amateur Radio & Computer Show retains its popularity to this day; however, with the impending closure of its original venue, RadioSport are taking the event to one of the country's most prestigious exhibition venues — Alexandra Palace.
See the web site http://www.radiosport.co.uk for details of how to get there, lectures, admission prices, etc.

an on-board camera. The article mentions the camera, transmitter and receiver as the main ingredients. Because I am under the impression that these components are supplied by Conrad Electronics, I would like to have their order code numbers. I tried a comparison with the Internet but I was unable to obtain conclusive information. The illustrations shown in your article appear to be different from those in the Conrad Electronics catalogue.
Oscar Hill, by email

You are right, The Conrad catalogue is not clear in this respect. The transmitter has order number 117455 (GigaLink Mini H0 Sender) and costs approx. DM 300 (go to www.conrad.de and enter the order number in the 'produktsuche' box) The receiver is half a Marmitek transmitter/receiver which goes by order number 888664 (Gigavideo 30), price approx. DM 200. Any one of these cameras may be used: 15000124 (b/w, DM 50), 15001424 (b/w, DM 70) or 15002624 (colour, DM 130).

USB Interface Driver for Windows 2000

Dear Editor — the driver you supply for your USB Interface project does not work under Windows 2000. I would like to present you and your readers with a suitable driver.
P. van Lith, by email

Thank you for your kind offer, which we are pleased to take up. The two files, W2KUSB.INF and W2KUSB.SYS have been compressed into a single zip file called W2KUSB.ZIP which may be downloaded from our Free Downloads page (April 2001 items).

PC Dominance?

Dear Editor — I have been a reader of your magazine since 1982 and have seen several changes in this time. The main change is the availability of the home PC. When I started, the Junior Computer was an advanced project — now we take a very high level of computer power for granted. Nowadays we can use the PC to run compilers or assemblers or even simulators for microprocessors, and in real time speed.
The problem with using the PC as a part of a project is the ever-increasing complexity of the operating system (DOS, Windows 3.1, 95, 98, 2000, NT and Linux) and the architecture of the main bus has changed several times with the introduction of new processors. The computer I am using for this letter is considered obsolete (133 MHz Pentium running Windows 98) but I feel it is still very usable for many tasks. These differing tasks mean that one task cannot dominate like in single purpose programs which can hog CPU time and input and output.

The recent articles on the Universal Serial Bus are extremely promising, as the USB device as used is a processor which can be programmed from the host computer. Please keep up this project, as it can be the core for many projects that need communication with a PC but keeping a single purpose for programming. If possible, can the required software and drivers be written with an open licence similar to Linux, to encourage development and use? This seems to be a problem with the I^{2}C bus as so many interface boards and adapters have been published.
The use of software in projects is now so common. Its descriptions and examples are as important as circuit diagrams and electrical description, so please show more. A software forum might be a good idea.
The Gameboy Digital Sampling Oscilloscope (GBDSO) is a project which looks very likely to be purchased as a kit only, but what a brilliant project, more like this (not too often — funds not unlimited).
There have been several bench power supplies in the past but I think the time might be right for another, Possible specification 0 to 30 V at 2 A. Good at the low voltages for 3.3 V logic and the higher voltages for audio work. If possible using a text LCD module with an MPU for the instrumentation as an option.
Peter Collins, Bostion

It is now almost impossible to be actively involved in electronics and ignore the PC or the Intenet. None the less, we try to keep a balance, see, for instance this month's Millennium Crescendo power amp, which is "100% PC-Free" as far as components, construction and use is concerned (which is not to say that we did not use a PC to design the circuit).
Being publishers only, open-licence software is really out of our league as it involves a lot of co-ordination and feedback to/from individual users. Arguably, that would rob us of the time to prepare other projects for publication!
The free downloads we supply with many (but not all) software-related projects in our magazines and books should be your key to further understanding of programming techniques. Here, the Internet is a powerful tool as it is simply impossible to print complete source file listing in the magazine — a medium-size one for, say, a PIC, would easily fill 10 pages! USB is indeed promising and you may expect further projects in the future.
The Gameboy project was our biggest hit in about 10 years' time and we are still 'enjoying' its impact.
Finally, the cost of ready-made CE approved power supplies of the spec you mention, complete with a digital readout, is now competitive to say the least with any attempt at home brewing. None the less, we should consider the fun in building it yourself, and your suggestion has been forwarded to our design staff.